

I claim:

1. An article comprising:

a spreader including a sealed container forming a blade at one end and having a dispensing opening suitable for dispensing paste material from the container onto the blade and still further including a docking structure remote from the blade, the sealed container being adapted to be filled with the paste material and for dispensing the paste material therefrom; and

a removable plug shaped to sealingly engage the dispensing opening to preserve the paste material for later use, and further shaped to engage the docking structure for storage while the article is being used to apply and spread the paste material with the blade.

2. The article defined in claim 1, wherein the docking structure for the plug is located at an end opposite the blade.

3. The article defined in claim 2, wherein the docking structure includes a second hole that is slightly larger than the dispensing opening.

4. The article defined in claim 2, wherein the second hole includes side notches to facilitate receipt of a "J" hook for merchandising displays.

5. The article defined in claim 1, wherein the spreader includes at least one side that is deformable and collapsible.

6. The article defined in claim 1, wherein the spreader includes a deformable sheet of material forming a blister-like, deformable side of the container.

7. The article defined in claim 6, wherein the spreader includes a relatively resilient sheet forming a second side of the container and also forming the blade.

8. The article defined in claim 7, wherein the opening is formed in the resilient sheet.

9. The article defined in claim 8, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a “rigid” PVC material.

10. The article defined in claim 9, wherein the deformable sheet of material includes a perimeter flange bonded to the resilient sheet to form the container.

11. The article defined in claim 7, wherein the resilient sheet and the deformable sheet are both made of PVC material.

12. The article defined in claim 11, wherein the resilient sheet is at least 0.030 inches thick and the deformable sheet is between 0.010 and 0.030 inches thick.

13. The article defined in claim 10, wherein the perimeter flange is RF welded to the resilient sheet along a continuous uninterrupted bond line.

14. The article defined in claim 10, wherein the blade has sharp 90° corners and a straight edge therebetween.

15. The article defined in claim 7, wherein the resilient sheet includes stiffening ribs that extend along but are spaced inwardly from edges of the resilient sheet.

16. The article defined in claim 15, wherein the stiffening ribs include at least two parallel stiffening ribs.

17. The article defined in claim 1, including a resilient component of “rigid” PVC material and a preformed deformable component of “flexible” PVC material bonded along a full perimeter of the deformable component.

18. The article defined in claim 1, wherein the plug extends into the opening and flexes outwardly to sealingly engage marginal material forming the opening.

19. The article defined in claim 1, wherein the opening is at least about 7/16 inch in diameter.

20. An article comprising:

a spreader including a preformed resilient sheet component and a preformed deformable sheet component bonded together and shaped to form a blister-shaped sealed container with a cavity therebetween, the sealed container being airtight and water-tight and adapted to contain spackling material; the resilient sheet component forming a blade at one end suitable for spreading the spackling material and forming an opening at the one end for dispensing the spackling material onto the blade; and

a removable moisture-resistant adhesive seal sealingly covering the opening.

21. The article defined in claim 20, including a removable, resilient plug shaped to sealingly engage and close the opening.

22. The article defined in claim 21, including a docking station similarly shaped like the opening that is located away from the blade and opening, so that the plug can be held on the spreader without interfering with dispensing spackling material onto the blade and without interfering with using the article including the blade.

23. The article defined in claim 22, wherein the docking station is located at an end opposite the blade and comprises a docking hole.

24. The article defined in claim 20, wherein the resilient sheet component is at least 0.030 inches thick and the deformable sheet component is between 0.010 and 0.030 inches thick.

25. The article defined in claim 20, wherein the opening is at least 0.4 inch in diameter.

26. The article defined in claim 20, wherein the resilient sheet includes at least two parallel ribs that extend toward the blade for stiffening the blade.

27. An article comprising:

a resilient sheet component and a deformable sheet component bonded together to form a blister-shaped container, the resilient sheet having an enlarged blade formed at a blade end and a dispenser hole also formed at the blade end for dispensing material from

the container onto the blade and further having an air bleed hole remote from the dispenser hole for facilitating filling of the container;

at least one removable sealing member shaped to sealingly cover the dispenser hole and the air bleed hole to maintain an airtight moisture-resistant seal of the container.

28. The article defined in claim 27, wherein the resilient sheet component includes an opposite end that is positioned opposite the blade end and that includes a holder hole.

29. The article defined in claim 27, wherein the resilient sheet component is a rigid PVC material and the deformable sheet component is a flexible PVC material bonded together along a continuous uninterrupted bond line.

30. The article defined in claim 27, including a plug shaped to fit sealingly into the dispenser hole to maintain an airtight seal of the container, and shaped to fit into a holder hole in the resilient sheet component for secure storage while using the article to spread a substance dispensed from the container.

31. An article comprising:

a first preformed component made from a resilient sheet of rigid PVC material and a second preformed component made from a deformable sheet of flexible PVC material bonded together along a continuous bond line and shaped to form an airtight blister-shaped sealed container therebetween, the second preformed component having a perimeter flange bonded to the first preformed component and the first preformed component including first ribs extending parallel along a portion of the perimeter flange to assist in locating the resilient and deformable sheets together during a bonding process; the first preformed component including an enlarged end forming a blade and further including second ribs extending onto the enlarged end to stiffen the blade for improved control when using the blade and to permit a thinner material to be used for the resilient sheet;

paste material sensitive to drying from exposure to atmosphere fills the container; the resilient sheet including a dispenser opening in the enlarged end for dispensing the paste material from the container onto the enlarged end, and including a docking station remote from the enlarged end and shaped to simulate the dispenser opening and that is located remotely from the enlarged end and the opening, so that a plug for the opening can be held on the spreader without interfering with dispensing paste material

onto the enlarged end and without interfering with using the enlarged end to spread the paste material.

32. The article defined in claim 31, including an adhesive moisture-resistant removable seal covering the dispenser opening.

33. The article defined in claim 31, including an air bleed hole spaced from the dispenser opening, the air bleed hole being positioned to facilitate filling the container with material, and a seal sealingly closing the air bleed hole.

34. A method comprising steps of:

forming a first sheet section of flexible PVC material, including a perimeter flange;
forming a second sheet section of rigid PVC material; and
bonding the perimeter flange of the flexible PVC material to the rigid PVC material with a continuous bond to form a blister package.

35. The method defined in claim 34, wherein the step of bonding includes RF welding.

36. The method defined in claim 34, including pre-forming a dispensing opening in the rigid PVC material.

37. The method defined in claim 36, including forming an air bleed hole in the rigid PVC material.

38. The method defined in claim 34, including forming embossed ribs in the rigid PVC material.

39. The method defined in claim 34, including forming an air bleed hole in the rigid PVC material.

40. The method defined in claim 39, including covering the air bleed hole with an adhesive moisture-resistant seal.

41. The method defined in claim 34, including filling a space between the first and second sheets with spackling compound.
42. The method defined in claim 34, wherein the first and second sheet sections are each individually equal to or less than 0.03 inches thickness.
43. An article comprising:
 - a preformed first component made from a flexible thermoplastic polymer and having a continuous perimeter flange;
 - a preformed second component made from a rigid thermoplastic polymer with a blade edge and a dispensing hole formed on one end; and
 - the perimeter flange being bonded to the second component with a portion of the perimeter flange extending between the blade edge and the dispensing hole.
44. The article defined in claim 43, wherein the flexible and rigid thermoplastic polymers are flexible and rigid PVC sheet materials, respectively.